

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention.

Reconsideration of the subject patent application in view of the present remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 14, 15, 20, and 25 are amended. Claim 19 has been cancelled. New claims 29-32 have been added. Support for claims 29-32 are found on page 34, line 13 to 22 of the original specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 14, 15 and 18-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kauhaniemi et al. (US Patent pub. No. 2004/0266496, hereinafter “Kauhaniemi”).

Claims 14, 15, 20 and 25 have been amended to include limitations not disclosed by Kauhaniemi. Specifically, Kuahaniemi does not disclose that the bendable member has an arc shape in sectional view perpendicular to a connecting direction in which the bendable member (or connecting plates, in the case of claim 25) bridges the two housing portions while the two housings are in an unfolded state. The flexible shutter structure 1 disclosed in Kauhaniemi, which corresponds to the bendable member of the present invention, appears to have a rectangular shape in sectional view perpendicular to the connecting direction, as shown in Figure

14 of Kauhaniemi. There is no disclosure in Kauhaniemi that the shutter structure 1 has an arc shape in sectional view perpendicular to a connecting direction in which the bendable member or connecting plates bridge the two housing portions while the two housings are in an unfolded state. Therefore, since every limitation of claims 14, 15, 20 and 25 is not taught by the reference, the claims are not fully anticipated by Kauhaniemi. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection as it applies to claims 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Additionally, claim 18 is dependent on independent claim 15, claims 21-24 are directly dependent on independent claim 20, and claims 26 and 28 are dependent on independent claim 25, and claim 27 is indirectly dependent on independent claim 14. Because these claims are directly or indirectly dependent on independent claims that are not anticipated by the prior art of record, claims 18, 21-24, and 26-28 should be allowable for at least the same reason as stated for the parent claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Kauhaniemi in view of Wilson (U.S. No. 2003/0114184), hereinafter “Wilson”. The asserted combination of Kauhaniemi and Wilson, independently or in combination, does not teach or suggest all features of the claimed invention. Kauhaniemi does not disclose the limitations that the shutter structure 1 has an arc shape in sectional view perpendicular to a connecting direction in which the bendable member bridges the two housing portions while the two housings are in an unfolded state as claimed in claims 14 and 15.

In addition, Kauhaniemi does not disclose that the bendable member has a longitudinal concave portion oriented in a direction parallel to a direction in which the two housing portions are folded. The Office Action states that Figure 6 of Kauhaniemi discloses the concave portion of claims 16 and 17. However, the concave portion shown in Figure 6 of Kauhaniemi is not oriented in a direction *parallel* to a direction in which the two housing portions are folded as claimed in claim 16 and 17, but oriented in a direction *perpendicular* to a direction in which the two housing portions are folded. Wilson also fails to disclose the above limitations.

Therefore, even if Kauhaniemi were combined with Wilson, every limitation of amended claims 14 and 15 would not be taught or suggested by the resulting combination. Thus, claims 16 and 17 are patentable for at least the same reasons as the parent claim.

Applicant also asserts that new claims 29-32 are neither anticipated nor obvious in light of the prior art of record. Specifically, the transformation of the central portion of the bendable member or connecting plates is not disclosed in Kauhaniemi. In claims 14 and 15, the central portion of the bendable member has an arc shape in the sectional view while the two housings are in an unfolded state and has the linear shape in the sectional view while the two housings are in the folded state, as claimed in new claims 29-32.

In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

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If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. NGB-40271.

Respectfully submitted,

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